GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6008
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
STREAMLINING OF PDS IN ORISSA
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints that the PDS does not function effectively in the floodaffected areas of the country, particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have a proposal to streamline Public DistributionSystem in those areas and elsewhere in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to implement such scheme in the country particularly in Orissa?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): Public Distribution System(PDS) is operated under thejoint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States, the responsibility of distribution of the essential commodities to the consumers through the Fair Price shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

As multiple agencies including a large network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) are involvedn PDSoperations, the possibility of shortcomings in the implementation of the PDS in some flood affected areas of Orissa cannot be ruled out.

(b),(c)&(d): State Governments including the Government of Orissa have been requested to closely monitor the Public Distribution System at the Fair Price Shop (FPS) and other levels. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under Public Distribution System to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens` Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated toStates/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

With a view to protect the interest of the producers and consumers, Consultative Committee at Zonal and State level have been formed in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) which serve as an interface between the FCI and the PDS in the States. The Committees discuss and make recommendations on procurement, distribution and transportation of foodgrains, sale, disposal of foodgrains and implementation of `Antyodaya Anna Yojana`.